

only had the books of Luther and his disciples multiplied, but Luther's doctrines had enlisted champions who dared to preach them to the people, and maintain them against the doctors of the Church. This daring brought four of them to the stake, and resulted in the expatriation of several others before 1535.

Among these early martyrs Patrick Hamilton stands pre-eminent for his learning, his devotion, his inflexible determination. Through his mother, daughter of the Duke of Albany, son of James II., he was nearly related to the king himself, and he was educated at Paris and Louvain with a view to high preferment in the Church. His scholarship was already remarkable when in 1523 he returned to Scotland and was incorporated as Master in the University of St Andrews. It was coupled with a keen interest in the books which Parliament two years later condemned as "filth," and his zeal in disseminating their teaching roused Archbishop James Beaton to take cognisance of his heresy. To escape this ordeal he went abroad once more, this time to Marburg, the newly founded Protestant University of Hesse. The plague prevented him from continuing his travels to Wittenberg as he intended, in order to confer with Luther and Melancthon; but his converse at Marburg with kindred spirits like Lambert, Tyndale, and Frith, sufficed to confirm his faith and induce him with the martyr spirit. The result was the deliberate determination to return and face his persecutors. Within a few months of his arrival, on the last day of February 1528, he gave proof both of his fortitude and his evangelical fervour in the terrible scene in front of St Salvator's College at St Andrews, where he was roasted for six agonising hours over a fire whose efficiency was thus long baulked by storm and green faggots.

Hamilton was the first of many victims during the next thirty years, in spite of occasional intervals of immunity from persecution, due to political considerations. Archbishop Beaton was thorough enough in his hatred of heresy. He was surpassed by his nephew David, who was probably the promoter of Hamilton's cruel fate, and who a few years later became cardinal as well as his successor as archbishop. He was, moreover, during the last half dozen years of James'